

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A machine for the continuous production of a nonwoven, comprising a spun-bond tower depositing filaments as a web onto a conveyor and a device for consolidating the web, by water jets, characterized by a moisture-expressing means downstream, in the direction in which the web moves, of the consolidation device and by an applicator for applying a product to the web downstream of the expressing means, said applicator being selected from the group consisting of a foam applicator, a lick-roll applicator and a spray applicator.

7. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the expressing means comprises a vacuum device for subjecting the web to a suction effect.

8. (previously presented) A machine according to claim 7, wherein said vacuum device provides a vacuum of between about 40 millibar and about 700 millibar.

9. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 6, ~~wherein the expressing means which further~~ comprises a device for drying the web downstream of the product applicator.

10. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the product applicator is arranged to apply to the web at least one product selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, a binder, a lubricant, a swelling agent, a dye and a printed indicia a foam applicator or a lick-roll applicator.

11. (currently amended) A machine according to claim 6, wherein the product applicator is a device for applying longitudinal bands.

12. (new) A machine for the continuous production of a nonwoven, comprising a spun-bond tower depositing filaments as a web onto a conveyor and a consolidation device for consolidating the web, by water jets, characterized by a moisture-expressing means downstream, in the direction in which the web moves, of the consolidation device and by an applicator for applying a product to the web downstream of the expressing means, the product being selected from the group consisting of a

surfactant, a binder, a lubricant, a swelling agent, a dye and a printed indicia.